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he either lent them the money necessary to secure the animals or paid for them out of his own pocket.

Nobody knew better than Mr. Hill, the pure bred sire player in the improvement of horses, cattle, sheep, swine or poultry, and if he were alive today he would be behind the campaign the Federal Government is conducting through the Department of Agriculture along these lines. There was a time when scrub sires were considered good enough in some communities but education is killing that idea fast. Agricultural colleges are to be found everywhere. Many of them give short courses during the winter on stock improvement and these are attended by every progressive farmer and stockman.

Another powerful factor is the newspaper devoted to agriculture. No farmer's household is complete without one of these. It is as essential to the peace of mind of that most independent of all human beings, especially during the winter months, as his cornucopia pipe, his felt top boots or his jug of cider.

Starting Up House Building. In Chicago the construction industry is going to be revived, the housing shortage is going to be mitigated and rents are going to come down, because the building trade there is tackling the problem in the right way, which is to get all costs of production down, the biggest of which is inflated labor. Chicago wages are to be cut, as materials and supplies have been cut, 20 per cent.

When the \$10,000 house of pre-war days now takes \$15,000 of labor charges alone to build, it is foolish and futile to try to get back to normal production costs and normal rents by chopping something off the price of shingles and nails and letting it go at that. Cutting lumber alone will not do it. Cutting other materials, but letting labor costs stand, will not do it.

When the ordinary house which cost to build \$10,000 before the war recently has been costing \$25,000, the couple of thousand dollars of lumber don't make much of a mark as against the \$15,000 of labor charges. The few hundred dollars of brick and mortar and plaster don't offer much chance of saving, as against the \$15,000 of labor charges. The several hundred dollars of plumbing, of heating plant, of glazing, don't count materially, as against the \$15,000 of direct labor.

A cut of 20 per cent. in the price of every single material thing going into that \$25,000 house would take off only \$2,000, leaving the cost of the former \$10,000 house still \$23,000. A cut of a clean one-third in the whole item of \$10,000 for materials would take off only \$3,300, leaving the cost of the former \$10,000 house still \$21,700. A wage cut of 20 per cent. in the cost would slice off \$3,000.

But the necessary cost savings demand something more than merely price cuts and wage cuts. They demand a square day's work from every man on the job. Bricklayers are getting perhaps twice the wage they were getting before the war, but because they lay only half the bricks they laid before the war it costs now to lay the bricks four times as much as before the war. The same thing is true of the carpenter, the painter, the plasterer and the others.

A 20 per cent. reduction in abnormal wages can take \$3,000 off the cost of building the former \$10,000 house, which is now up to \$25,000. An increased efficiency of 20 per cent. by the laborer can take off another \$3,000. This could make it \$20,000. A 20 per cent. cut in prices of all materials used would add another saving of \$3,000, making it \$17,000. A thirty per cent. cut in materials will make it \$15,000. A forty per cent. cut will make it \$12,000.

Under all those cost reductions materials and supplies would be virtually back to normal. Wages still would be very much above normal. But building would start up again with a rush.

On the other hand, no matter how the prices of materials are slashed, there will be and can be no building boom and no worth while building revival so long as the big costs, the labor costs, block the way.

Rice for Starving Armenians. The South, which has always consumed large quantities of rice, is engaged in a plan to use this cheap and wholesome cereal in solving the food problem in Armenia.

Louisiana, long a large producer of rice in its rich black alluvial deposit lands, especially in the Teche country, about 125 miles southwest of New Orleans, has taken the lead in a movement which will help the Armenians and at the same time move a heavy crop for which the market is stagnant. Quotas have been fixed for Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Alabama and Arkansas, and the work will be carried on under the auspices of the Associated Rice Millers of America, in cooperation with the Near East Relief Commission.

It is the purpose to raise \$675,000, and this amount will be expended in the rice markets of the South. The shipment will go direct by steamship to Constantinople and it is anticipated that the campaign will be concluded on Easter Sunday. It is estimated by food experts that a cupful of raw rice weighing one-third of a pound will provide a single meal for five or six persons. Those in charge of the campaign say they can lay the rice down in Constantinople at between 3 and 4 cents a pound. One hundred pounds would sustain a life for year at a cost of \$3 or \$4.

As rice is the food of the East

there would be no problem of education in its preparation and use. The \$675,000 worth of the staple which will be contributed by the people of the South will go a long way toward solving a problem which happily has no parallel in this prosperous land of ours.

Helpfulness as a Hobby. If waste could be stopped the world would soon grow rich. The worst waste of all is the waste of humanity. The saving of human beings is not only spiritually but economically the biggest job of salvage there is.

The Salvation Army has a fine watchword for the defeated and the downcast: "You may be down but you're never out." To convince a man of its truth is to start him anew on the upward path of self-respect and self-support. The difficulty is to get it into his head, whether by mere persuasion or by the convincing argument of the helping hand. When this can be accomplished it is a victory over evil, a triumph over the forces of gloom.

To do this admirable thing, to kindle the spark of hope in the atmosphere of hopelessness, to shock the fellow who is down and out, or thinks he is, out of his dull acquiescence in misfortune President Harrison told an audience in Washington on Monday evening was his favorite hobby.

If there is somewhere in the world," he said, "a human touch that awakens disappointment into hope, that is the finest hobby in the world." The saying is one of the finest of sayings—humane, upward looking, inspiring, in the best spirit of broad religion and the meliorist attitude of natural sympathy.

To reach out the helping hand is a possibility that comes again and again to every one. To make a hobby, of help is so easy, so beautiful, that it need only be suggested to become popular. And if the reason for the existence of a hobby is to give pleasure to the one who practices it, what other is there that will yield a richer return than this?

Ludendorff on Soviet Russia. In an interview published in the Weekly Review, General Ludendorff, speaking from his knowledge of the situation in Soviet Russia and his experience as a military leader, expresses the belief that a blow at Bolshevism would be decisive only if it was struck at Moscow, the heart of the Soviet régime. He declares, too, that some such action will be necessary by the people of Europe if Russia is to reënter into the economic life of the world.

That concerted action by the Powers has in the past been impossible is, in his opinion, due largely to the fact that the Soviet Government has succeeded in making the European working man believe that Russia has a labor Government, while in reality "never in the course of history has a Government imposed harder conditions upon workmen than are today imposed in Russia." The deception which Bolshevism has thus practised cannot, he says, continue to exist; sooner or later the truth will be known, and "the Moscow rulers must anticipate with dread the day on which the general distress will force the Governments of Europe to wage war on the Soviet Government, not only with the approval but at the insistence of the working masses."

The uncertainties of the present situation in and around Petrograd make it impossible to arrive at a just estimate of the chief factors in this uprising against the Soviet rule. While all the reports from men interested in labor conditions, men such as John Spargo of America, Howard Russell of England, the representatives of the socialist parties in Italy, France, Belgium and Germany, and working men's leaders in Great Britain and this country, who have made studies of LENINE's theories, have condemned the Soviet rule and deplore the condition of the laboring men under Bolshevism, there is nothing to indicate that the present revolt was due to influences outside of Russia. Neither is there any reason to believe that the revolutionaries are confined to any special class. It is more likely that it is a revolt in which all classes and conditions of Russians are participating.

General LUDENDORFF has apparently little faith in the ability of the Russian people themselves to oust the Moscow dictators from power. He has the military man's faith in the Red army's power to overcome revolution; he sees Chinese battalions well paid, well fed, obeying the Government implicitly and led by officers of Imperial Russia who are constantly under spy surveillance and whose families are held as hostages. In fact he apparently foresees the westward spread of Bolshevism and the necessity of a great western European army to undertake an offensive which will rescue the country from its present oppressors.

With this view the Entente Powers do not at present agree. Neither are they likely to accept the situation as a reason for the rebuilding of a new German army upon a pre-war basis. General Ludendorff evidently anticipates this point and proposes all sorts of safeguards against this army's becoming a menace to Europe. Inadvertently he makes a most significant remark regarding the preparation for the world war. He says, "During peace times, under very favorable conditions, several months were required for preparing the mobilization of an existing and highly organized army." This considered in the light

of the past is not a reassuring argument for a large German standing army.

There appears no good grounds for the fear that the Bolshevik propaganda is spreading westward with such blighting effect. In fact, it would seem to be losing much of its strength as light is thrown upon the deplorable conditions which exist in Soviet Russia. Neither is the Soviet rule making any great advance as a military Power; it has made no decided gain in Asia and Poland; Rumania and Czechoslovakia profess to be able to hold securely the Bolshevik forces on their borders. It is now too early to make speculations on the outcome of the present revolution, but it is an indication of a power that may yet arise to restore Russia to sanity. General LUDENDORFF's appeal for European interference has not wholly the appearance of a plea for the peace of the world.

Therapeutics of Prayer. There might be nothing more unusual in a doctor advocating prayer than in any man of any calling. There is something unusual, however, in putting prayer on a scientific basis as a therapeutic agent. The proposition is that prayer has, or at any rate may have, a physiological effect upon the body as well as an influence upon the mind and soul. It is therefore a means at the disposal of the hygienist for preserving and restoring health.

In "Why Die So Young?" a book newly issued from the press, Dr. JOHN B. HUBER of this city takes the ground that "the unquestionable trend of modern thought is monistic." He indorses the concept of a "cosmic oneness in which all phenomena, however diverse they may appear, are most intimately interrelated, quite as it is now unquestionably agreed that all forms of energy are interchangeable."

Perhaps this may be straining the analogy a little from the point of view of strict science, but there can be no doubt of the reflex action of body and mind upon each other. Depression of the physical condition certainly causes despondency and healthy bodily conditions tend to high spirits. Conversely, anxiety, grief, worry, evil expectation slow down such functions as breathing and heart action—probably digestion and other processes too—while confidence, ease of mind, hope are pretty sure to be accompanied by desirable and healthy physical reactions.

Doctors have long taken account of this reciprocal action of mind and matter in humanity. The well known "medical manner" is a by-product. The skillful practitioner aims by cheerful suavity to create a will to live and a will to recover in his patient. Nor can it be denied that the vogue of Christian Science, Faith Cure and similar forms of mental healing have attracted attention in the profession and given a certain color to practice, especially along lines where nervous conditions are involved. Much has been written in recent years about clinical psychology, and the hopeful, careful mental attitude has clear recognition as a condition favorable to recovery from illness.

In doubtful cases, doctors sometimes say, the patient has his best chance of getting well just after he has completed preparations to die. The soothing ministrations of religion, the sense of peace and hope regardless of the outcome of the disease, are apt to create a feeling of content and wellbeing extremely favorable to physiological rebound. The case of ENRICO CARUSO, the tenor, of the details of whose sickness so much has been published, illustrates the point. It will be remembered that after receiving the last rites of his church he expressed great spiritual comfort. He said he was at peace with God and daily accounts of his continuous prayer were given out from his bedside. But in fact the news of the favorable turn in his malady came almost simultaneously with his preparation for the end, and since then he has progressed without relapse.

Without venturing into the controversial field of direct response to prayer, it is neither unscientific nor irreligious to accept at least as a basis for consideration the proposition of the present writer, "that prayer is helpful not so much as the granting of specific personal requests; not so much in that the inherently benignant laws of nature could be disturbed in their working in behalf of any individual supplicant; but that prayer is helpful in bringing him who prays into comfortable, salutary and restful relation with the First Cause." On this theory, training in the habit of prayer in childhood and its pursuit through life are urged as a duty, both as regards body and soul, upon the pulpit and the clinic alike.

A boy was arrested in New York for peddling Russian rubles without a license. If the Bolsheviks learn that he was able to get \$3 a thousand for them they will set him up in business.

The New Programme. Get the plough and spade and hoe, Get the harrow and the team, Sharpen up the axe and saw, Life is not an idle dream. Plant and now and dig and delve, This is not a time to shirk, Put your shoulders to the wheel—Everybody go to work!

String the wire and lay the track, Start the motor and the loom, Swing the hammer, ply the pick, Make the arid desert bloom. Blow the whistle, ring the bell, Farmer, lawyer, builder, clerk, With the hands as with the head, Everybody go to work!

Very Trying. First Centipede—Does your wife make you put on your rubber? Second Centipede—Yes, and it clears off by the time I get them all on.

To Be Replaced by the Dry Smith. From the Mexico Ledger. We presume the third voice will soon disappear entirely from the popular voice.

Minna Irving.

Study Dante Now.

The 600th Anniversary of His Death Occurs Next Autumn.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: In view of the 600th anniversary of Dante's death, which will be observed next autumn, would it not be proper and beneficial to introduce into the high schools the study of portions of the Divine Comedy?

There are cantos and episodes from this poem which are complete in form and content, and can therefore be used without a knowledge of the whole work. These can be made to serve as models of literary expression.

No writer has ever equalled Dante in power and conciseness. His descriptions are so striking as never to be forgotten and his style has the concision and terseness of a demonstration in Euclid.

The students in the high schools should be introduced to the best literature, and where can anything be found to compare with the episodes of Paolo and Francesca, the imprisonment and death of Ugo and his children and the last voyage of Ulysses, or the description of the Terrestrial Paradise, to mention no others?

Dante can be made an intellectual and moral tonic for the present time. Furthermore, his writings are invested with the unique personality of the great Florentine himself, and there is back of it all the most interesting and instructive period of the world's history, a period of large visions and patient work for their realization. It is the age of the Crusades, the cathedral builders and the troubadours. Organized society was capable of great undertakings then, as was the individual who dedicated his life to the service of his lady—the embodiment of an ideal. The time is opportune to consider the great poem, the great poet and the great age.

There are a number of good translations of the comedy: in verse, Cary's, Longfellow's and Johnson's may be mentioned; while in prose, Towner's is perhaps the most satisfactory for the general reader. W. E. BRIDGES, Secretary of the Dante Society of New Brunswick, N. J., March 8.

New Brunswick, N. J., March 8.

More Singers Wanted.

It Is Desired to Make the People's Liberty Chorus 1,000 Strong.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: It was through THE NEW YORK HERALD some two and a half years ago that I learned of an organization in New York meeting at the High School of Commerce, 155 West 84th-street, on Monday and Thursday evenings to teach music, and for this I thank you. This chorus society, called the People's Liberty Chorus, is in my estimation one of the very best in New York city.

Its leader, L. Camilleri, is a genius and a wonder. As far as I can learn, there is no musician in New York today who teaches music with the human voice as a musical instrument. To prove this I wish a committee of musicians would call and make a visit at the auditorium. To hear that body of singers on Monday nights is a rare treat.

If more people knew that such an institution was in existence they would be glad to help and make it 1,000 strong. Church singers and persons musically inclined could be especially helpful.

The benefit that people can derive from proper practice is being proved at the meetings of the advanced unit, where more than 300 men and women come together in musical fellowship. MUSIC LOVER.

New York, March 8.

Restaurant Prices.

An Investigator Finds Portions Cut but Not Rates.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: Isn't it time for restaurants which have been announcing cut rates to begin to reduce their prices? They take off an occasional five cents here and there, but the fact remains that to get any kind of a meal you must pay more in most of these places.

For instance, in a Forty-second street restaurant a very light lunch—butter cakes, a cup of coffee and a baked apple—costs more than a dinner of two butter cakes, a tea biscuit or bread with the meats; now you must pay 10 cents for any order of bread. An order of butter cakes used to be three for five cents; now they are two for 10 cents, and I suppose contain about one cent's worth of material. G. S.

New York, March 8.

Untaxing Service Men.

An Objection to Giving a Bonus in the Shape of Exemption.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: The proposal of Thomas H. Gibson of Buffalo as to a five year tax exemption for service men strikes me as about the least feasible and most unfair suggestion yet made.

My income is rather large for an ex-luck private, so I can scarcely be accused of prejudice in saying that this would be a rather inverted benefit, as it would give each man less in proportion to his needs. For instance, to the man with a \$10,000 income there would be an annual gift of some hundreds of dollars, while the disabled \$15 a week watchman or clerk would get nothing.

"To him that hath," &c., is an excellent quotation, but in this case it seems to me to be directly at variance with the best interest of the majority. G. M. GIBBS.

New York, March 8.

The Rattan That Stung.

A Sixty-five-Year-Old Memory of One of Principal Scott's Pupils.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: The writer recalls the sting of Principal Scott's rattan in the old Twentieth street school. I frequently came in painful contact with it.

But the rod of Mr. Worth, the assistant principal, was much more dreaded by the boys. His method was similar to the cracking of a whip, the tip of the rattan just reaching the victim's palm with all the power of a horse's sting. I have a vivid recollection of it, although it happened sixty-five years ago. E. G. ARTHUR.

New York, March 8.

"Requiem" by Orchestra and Chorus

Philadelphia Musical Forces, With Mme. Hinkle and Mr. Werrenrath, Soloists, in Brahms's Composition.

A certain discretion marked the printed programme of the concert of the Philadelphia Orchestra, the seventh of its series, in Carnegie Hall last evening. The legend was "Brahms's Requiem." But the programme was in no way connected with the German liturgy but rather with the inevitable reflections of man on death, the nationalism of its original title may be pardoned. Brahms is said to have been moved especially toward its composition by sorrow for the death of his mother.

At any rate he left us one of the most solemn and moving of all requiem dirges. The work has not been heard too often here. It was first given by the German Liederkreis in 1875, but the first public performance was that of the Oratorio Society in 1877. It was presented by the New York Chorus, Theodore Thomas conductor, in 1884, and by the Oratorio Society in 1891 and 1904. The Oratorio and Symphony societies combined in 1912 in Brahms's festival in the Terrestrial Paradise, to mention no others.

It had not been heard since that time the last evening when a large audience listened to it with profound interest. The Philadelphia Orchestra chorus, trained by Stephen Townsend, was brought over for the concert, and closed itself as a competent organization. The sopranos were not ideal in tone quality, but they held their place in the balance of sound. The choir as a whole sang with much elasticity, with well planned phrasing, good enunciation and a large command of light and shade.

There are only